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DESCRIPTIVE

AND

Historical Sketch

OF

ELLIS COUNTY TEXAS.

— ... —

CONTAINING

A

DIRECTORY OF ENNIS

— ... —

Issued June 1st, 1876, at

THE NEWS OFFICE

BY

ALBERT D. RUST, Publisher

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Discription of Ellis Co. Tex

Ellis county is situated west of Trinity river, and is one of the most Southerly counties considered as in Northern Texas. The Houston and Texas Central Railway, passes through the county from eight to ten miles from its Eastern boundary—the Trinity river—. Ennis, Palmer and Ferris, are the railroad towns of the county. Ennis,- -named for Col. C. Ennis, a Director in the Central R.R. Co. —is located on Black Sandy rolling prairie, 231 miles from Houston, and 34 below Dallas, and has now a population of 1003, and is one of the most healthy and beautifully located towns on the Central Railroad, or in the State, was selected and located by the Central Railroad Company with a view of controlling the trade and transportation from one of the best upland farming sections in the State. Palmer and Ferris, respectively eight and fourteen miles North of Ennis, are well located for convenience of the fine farming section adjacent. Waxahachie, our county seat, was located in 1850, on the beautiful white rock creek of same name, and is thirteen miles nearly West of Ennis, with an energetic and enterprising population, of a few hundred more than Ennis, is a healthy, and handsomely located town, and boasts for Ellis County, of one of the neatest, and best yellow stone Court houses in Texas.

Lands of the county are principally black waxy rolling prairie: unimproved

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farming lands from $3 to $8 per acre. Unimproved superb lots, around the two principle towns of the county—Waxahachie and Ennis—from fifteen to sixty dollars per acre, in acre, or fractional acre lots. Improved lands from ten to thirty dollars per acre, owing to size of tracts, and class of improvments; and just here we would touch upon

LAND TITLES,

the great bugbear of many good and sensible immigrants who come into the county and expect to find our abstracts of titles already prepared and in order as it is in older states; instead, thereof, we have in most counties of our State a well kept public record of transfers, each Book indexed besides a general index, and it is the privilege and right as well as lawful duty of every man to examine or have examined said records before purchasing real Estate. Our laws are plain and simple, relative to titles of lands. A complete chain of title is one when every link is on file or on record in our General Land Office at the city of Austin, or recorded in the records of county where land is situated. The great bugaboo of Mexican or Spanish grants has nearly all been settled in courts of the country, or by statute of limitation. Our present defective titles result principally from carelessness and failure o purchasers to record deeds and transfers and suicidal neglect of purchasers in not examining, or having examined the public records before buying from ignorant irresponsible parties and agents of doubtful character. No honest man will flinch from a prying into his character and reputation, so try him thoroughly before purchasing. Examine lands on the ground in person, or by responsible proxy, and have it distinctly understood who is to pay surveying fees, and have an eye to

J. G. Rosson, Boot and Shoemaker and general Repairer in J. C. McKinney House.

the taxes. See that a complete chain of title is on file and of record. Buy from no surviving party of a coverture unless he or she is authorised by law to sell; and with but rare exceptions the purchaser will remain in peaceable possession undisturbed. As to the condition of the present titles of marketable land of Ellis county, I do not think I exagerate when I say good titles can be had to five sixths of the quantity in market, and I believe the land men, land lawyers of the county will reiterate the above statement. As a kind of farewell in the title question, show me the man in Texas, that croaks most upon defective land titles, and I will either show you a man without land sense or ordinary good judgment or I will show you the partner, aider and abettor of some scoundrel that is trying to swindle in lands and only drawing you away from the influence, and out of reach of honest men in order to swindle you.

WATER,

principly lime, and obtained by digging or boring wells from ten to fifty feet deep. Some very fine springs in portions of the county but none of sufficient power for manufacturing purposes unless it be on a very small scale. Stock water and for generating steam, is obtained principally from artificial ponds and tanks at various costs, from fifty to two hundred dollars.

TIMBER.

Oak of various kinds on and near Trinity river, hackberry, ash, red and white elm, pecan, walnut, chittem or gum elastic, honey locust, wild china, boxelder and red haw, on Waxahachie and Chambers creeks, the two principal large creeks passing through the county. The former with its tributaries, furnish drainageand timber, (principally fire wood) to the central portion of the county. The latter and tributaries furnishing drainage

If you, or your friend wants more of these pamphlets send stamp to Cyrus T. Hogan.

and timber to the Western portion of the county, and no doubt that timber growing, such as walnut, pecan, black locust, and other durable, and valuable timber, will find many advocates after the county is settled, and men learn that patience and perseverence in that direction will bring enormous profits compared to investments in drygoods, notions, etc. And just here a hint to those that possess ponds and springs would not be amiss. Suppose a quarter or half acre of the osier or basket willow was set around your springs or tank; the second year you can commence cutting to make baskets, and instead of our buying all of our market, fruit, clothes, and ladies work baskets in New York, Boston and Philadelphia, we could turn the tables on them and furnish those and other cities with Texas manufacture. A little patience perseverance, and a few skilled workmen in that direction will result in a large income to our county, and give employment to many of the lame, blind and halt.

IMPROVEMENTS.

Fencing is mostly of oak and cedar posts with four to six inch pine boards three to five in number to the panel, five used in and near timber where hogs are at large, three used where hogs are kept in pens. Some post and wire fences, and many miles of completed osage orange or bois d'arc hedges with hundreds of miles growing, and no doubt but that the McCartney rose, or, better known as the Louisiana Hedge Rose will come into general and favorable use, as it has been thoroughly demonstrated that it is a success, and makes a good hedge at three years from the cuttings. Dwellings and out houses principally of yellow pine lumber from pineries of Texas; costing here at lumber yard $20 to $23 per thousand

Ennis is beautifully and admirably located on the prairie, with a commanding view and

feet Court House, Jail, and many business houses of Waxahachie are built of a durable sandstone obtained from quarries near the town, and some houses also of brick made a few hundred yards from the Court House. Now about twelve months ago, the Waxahachie Tap railroad company was chartered, and is now graded ready for cross-ties and iron. The junction with the Central, being some 2¼ miles Northwest of Ennis, at the most accessable point, and it is to be hoped that the two principle towns of one of the best farming counties in Texas will soon be united and connected by the "iron horse" and Telegraph, instead of the two horse coaches now plying between the towns. Last April one of the best business blocks in Ennis was destroyed by fire, composing ten houses, and now seven neat brick buildings two iron fronts, and three two stories high, have arisen from the debris; the brick being made at Ennis a couple hundred yards from the block, and even the iron fronts that are an ornament to any town or house in Texas, were put up at Dallas, and soon the remaining three lots will be covered by buildings of the same material, a second block is now commenced, two neat two-story bricks approaching completion.

CHURCHES

of various protestant denominations in nearly every neighborhood.

EDUCATIONAL

interests of the county flourishing: free schools gradually growing into popular use.

Improved, labor-saving farming impliments of all kinds coming into general use, and favor, as well as improved household and kitchen furniture and utensils for the ladies, from the patent brooms to the finest cook stoves and sewing machines.

an altitude to warrant it healthy, whilst the landscape, to the new-comer, is indeed fac-

Of the county; small grains, corn, cotton, and some few grasses, fruits and vegetables. An average crop of wheat is about 20 bushels per acre, corn about 30, oats 30, barley 40, rye 25, cotton ½ to ¾ bale, grasses—millet and Hungarian —¾ to 1 ton; our native prairie, mesquit and others from ½ to 1 ton per acre Wheat averages $1 per bushel oats 40cts; corn 50, barley $1 rye $1, millet and Hungarian seed from $1 to $1.50, hay from $5 to $20 per ton, owing to severity of winter, and number of persons feeding cattle for market. The price of wheat is regulated by the demand of the coast counties and counties Southeast and West for flour made at our mills, and to some extent, by bulk of crop made in the Northwestern states and no doubt will eventually, like the Northwestern states, be regulated by the Liverpool and other foreign markets, as we are directly connected with Galveston—only 280 miles distant—the great sea port of Texas. Rye and barley will be regulated by distilleries to great extent, either in or out of the State. Corn, oats and hay, by numbers of stock fattened, and severity of winter. Cotton, the fleecy staple, succeeds as well here as anywhere in Texas on the uplands. Its vacilating prices, and cause and effect of same, are too well known to the commercial world to need comment, or likelyhood of prices in the future. Tis a well established fact, to the sorrow of many farmers of Ellis county that the less the crop interferes with the grain crop, the better it pays, and some are discarding it alltogether; yet fresh sod land quicker repays the breaking in culture if turned the winter or early spring, or even a few weeks on sandy land before cotton planting time in May.

nating, and ones very existance seems a blessing, and life a very pleasant dream.

FINANCIAL

interests represented by three private banks, two at Waxahachie and one at Ennis; all substantial reliable gentlemen, some of whom have grown up with the county, and are known throughout the State. The correspondent of the Ennis Bank is the Continental Bank of St, Louis Mo , —the cattle market of Texas—and Ball Hutchins & Co. of Galveston—our cotton market—exchange as reasonable as can be had at any bank in Texas. Gold and silver bought and sold; but the gold and silver part most "played out" as goods, groceries and in fact everything sells for currency, except occasionally you will find a tract of land owned by a gold-handed-silver-loving-opposed-to-cant-jingle-money specia-returned-hard-money-planked-worshipper-of-the-golden-calf"old gentleman (no intended disrespect to the old gentleman only to his old fogy ideas of "go slow," "lag behind," and want of knowledge of the progress of the age in the principles he advocates), whose land cost him, likely, 10 ot 25 cents an acre 20 years ago, that cant understand that the world has turned over once in 24 hours for the last twenty years, and that cant write B or sell A from Z, and consequently cant add on his 10 or 15 per cent to gold prices, get his money and then go and buy his gold if he wants it to put in a soap gourd, bury under a stump and die without telling his wife or children where it is and leave them penniless.

Total tax, State, county, and all other advalorum taxes, was last year, and is this, $1.67½ on the one hundred dollars.

MANUFACTURING

interests represented by mills from old fashioned tread wheel, to steam merchant of two hundred barrel capacity per day; the latter located at Ennis. Carriage and wagon shops of small capacity located at

Be careful about shipping old cattle to improve stock, ship calves and take less risks.

Ennis and Waxahachie, building the celebrated bois d'arc vehicles so noted for durability. Blacksmith shops scattered over the county, and a planing mill at Ennis.

EXPORTS OF COUNTY.

Flour, bran, oats, cotton, wool, hides, tallow, beeswax, pecans, dried fruit, eggs, cattle, horses, mules and mutton.

IMPORTS THAT NEED NOT BE.

Bacon, cheese, butter, soap, canned fruits, vegetables, brooms, ax, hoe, and auger handles, wagons, buggies, plows, wash machines churns, dressed lumber, sash, doors, and blinds, furniture, tubs, pails, barrels, and buckets.

WANTS OF COUNTY.

More good, industrious farmers, with small capital, to buy and improve forty, or eighty acres of land and raise a diversity of crops, especially small grain: more good merchant mills to manufacture the small grain into the finest flour in the world, and let us furnish the bread to the coast counties of Texas that is now furnished by St. Louis and other North Western cities; more brick makers, wagon and buggy factories on a large scale, a few planing mills; factories to manufacture brooms, sash, doors, blinds, ax, hoe, and auger handles, tubs, pails, buckets, wash machines, soap, churns, shoe lasts, shoe pegs, etc. Dairymen, more wool growers and breeders and growers of fine cattle, horses, hogs, bee raisers, fruit growers etc, Cedar and bois d'arc timber can be liad at reasonable prices, for use in any of the above mentioned factories; pecan, hickory, ash, oak and other timber can be had on the Trinity river for use in factories.

Health of community not surpassed by any in the State—"distressingly healthy," the doctors say; and to further enable a fair comparison of the health of Ennis with other towns in the State, as well as

Don't drink too freely of water whilst traveling, better use milk or domestic wine.

to encourage respect and veneration for the dead, on the 2nd of March A. D. 1875 the Myrtle Cemetery Co. of Ennis was formed of some of the most substantial citizens of the town. A beautiful site of ten acres was selected for the Cemetery, and laid off in order and system, into lots from 10 by 15 to 40 by 50. The grounds are now being enclosed with a substantial and durable fence, purchased with the proceeds of the two fairs the generous ladies of Ennis so kindly donated, and with the assistance of the ladies, the Company propose to ornament and beautify the grounds with shrubs, trees and evergreens, until Ellis county as well as Ennis will take pride in the Myrtle Cemetery, as a beautiful city of the dead.

TESTS OF ENLIGHTENMENT.

Musical instruments of all kinds imaginable, from jews harps to costly pianos and church organs; a silver cornet band at Waxahachie and one at Ennis; book stores and news depots at Waxahachie and Ennis; three weekly newspapers published in the county; there are also some fine private libraries to be found in the county. there is one nursery, a great many orchards of fine fruit, principally peach and plum, apple and pear. Most small fruits flourish—more especially on the black sandy lands; also every vegetable that can be raised South and North, some fine flower yards and gardens. For further evidences relating to our taste for flowers and vegetables, we refer you to orders booked by John Kern and other seedsmen of St Louis; John Saul, of Washington City; James Vick, of Rochester New York; D.M.Ferry & Co., Briggs and Bro., Dreer & Son, Shaker Garden Seed Company, and others in the United States who are supplying us with garden and flower seeds. Our

For a list of superb lands with price of the same, apply to Cyrus T. Hogan, Ennis Tex.

county improving rapidly—money matters are tight, but not so squeezing as to prevent occasional showers of lightning-rod men and St. Louis, New York and Galveston drummers, life and fire insurance agents, vendors of patent wares, and copy-righted books, and last but not least, sewing-mechine agents. Society is equal to any in the State, being made up of good people from all the states in the Union—law-abiding, faithful, generous, substantial people who are identified with the county, who are the adopted children of Texas and Ellis county, having come here, and, as Northern men and strangers who do not know us would say, have "tamed the wild Texan," one of whom "we is and was and always has been."

Business Directory

OF

ENNIS,

ELLIS COUNTY, TEXAS.

Allen & Glasscock, Confectioners; North side West Ennis Avenue.

Alexander, S. B. Blacksmith, Wagon, Buggy & Plow Maker and general repairer; North side of West Ennis Avenue.

For full comparative statement about Texas by a Northan man, address Albert D.

Bullard, I. H. Forwarding and Commission Merchant and Dealer in Farm & Mill Machinery; cor. Brown and W. Main.

Calbreath & Kendall, Dealers in Furniture and House Furnishing Goods; West Main.

Cheek John L. Magistrate of Precinct No. 4, and Notary Public; Office on West Brown street.

Craig E. E. Dealer in Stoves and general assorted Hardware and Agricultural Impliments; West Main.

Cobb J. E. Resident Dentist; J. H Chancellor's new Brick, near corner of Brown and West Main.

Chancellor W. E. & M. L. Wholesale & Retail Dealers in DryGoods, Hats, Caps, Boots & Shoes, Groceries, Qacens Ware, and shelf Hardware; 2nd door from the corner of West Main & Knox street.

Chancellor J. H. General Dealer in Groceries. Hardware & Crockery· West Main, south of Ennis avenue·

Cornwell & Kendall Butchers and Dealers in fresh Meats; North side West Ennis Avenue.

Carey S· Q. Wholesale and Retail Dealer in Lumber, Sash, Doors, Blinds, Shingles, Posts and Blocks; cor. of West Main and Knox street.

Carlton S. M. Publisher and Proprietor of the **"Saturday Review"** Subscription $2. per annum, sample copies sent on application; Office on Knox and West Main street.

Ennis House–Tharp & Beauchamp, Ennis Proprietors, accomodations 1st class–nearest Hotel to Pass. Depot;

Early & Parks, General Fire Insurance Agents; West Main, 2nd Door N. of Brown st. in J. H. Chancellor's Building.

First who resided 20 years in Michigan, and traveled largely Texas see card herein.

Grigg Mrs M. F. Millinner & Dress Maker near cor. of Brown and West Main street.

Gilpin J. M. Dry Goods, Boots & Shoes at Wholesale and Retail; Han. Building, West Main.

Hotchkiss & Rowe, Plaining & Moulding Mill and Cotton Gin: cor Knox & McKinney street.

Hogan Cyrus T. Real Estate Agent, Collector and Conveyancer: Office W. Main, North Ennis Avenue.

Latimer Mark, Banker and Dealer in Exchange—St Louis Correspondents, Continental Bank: corner of West Main and Ennis Avenue.

Lignoski H. A. Druggist; South side of East Ennis Avenue.

McKinney J. A. Bookstore & Dealer in Stationary, Fruits and Confectionaries; South side West Ennis Avenue.

McEnnis Mill Co. Manufacturers of Flour, ship stuff, Bran, Graham Flour, Corn Meal, &c. Took the First Premium on Flour at St Louis, Mo Oct. 1875.

McCarty T. L. Dealer in Staple and Fancy Groceries and a general assortment of Hardware. West Main South of Ennis Avenue.

Mulkey J. F. Druggist; corner Brown and West Main.

McKinney J. C General Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, Boots & Shoes etc. West Main, 4th door N. of Ennis Ave.

Niveth Louis, Practical Watchmaker and Repairer; West Main, South of Ennis Avenue

Popper I. Wholesale and Retail Dealer in Staple & Fancy Groceries, Wines, Liquors etc. Due East of R. R. Depot.

The Apiary, the Dairy and the Sheep Fold, are highly remunerative in Texas.

Pruess L. Chemist and Druggist and Dealer in Fancy Articles, Stationary Tobacco, and Cigars; West Main, 4th door North of Knox Street.

Pitman E. I. Watchmaker & Repairer and Dealer in Jewlery; North side West Ennis Avenue.

RUST A. D. Publisher of Ellis Co. News, $1 for 6 months. Subscribers' Inquiries regarding the country, answered through the NEWS. Answers to private letters about the Country, full particulars, One Dollar.

Reisman & Freeman; Wholesale and Retail Dealers in Dry Goods, Clothing, Boots & Shoes, Hats & Caps; corner East Main and Ennis Avenue.

Stephenson, S.R. Undertaker & Builder Church street, south Ennis Avenue.

Soape A. J. Dealer & Manufacturer of Harness, Saddles etc. W. Main Street.

Windle W. M. General Dealer in Family Groceries & fine Liquors; North side West Ennis Avenue.

Sloan & Bullard

GENERAL

WHOLESALE and RETAIL

—DEALERS IN—

Lumber, Shingles,

Sash, Doors and Blinds.

☞BUILDING MATERIAL

Constantly on hand.

Office, cor. West Main and Brown.

The laws of Texas subjects all but travelers & officers to a fine for carrying a revolver.

WRIGHT, BENTON & HENRY

BLACKSMITH,

Wagon & Buggy

MAKERS,

AND

GENERAL

RepairerS.

South Side West Ennis Avenue.

ABE CARROLL

Livery & Sale

STABLES.

NORTH SIDE of East Ennis Ave. and opposite Lignoski's Drug Store.

The First Premium for best Flour was awarded the McEnnis Mill Company at Ennis

J. C. McKinney,

—DEALER IN—

STAPLE

Dry Goods

AND

Groceries,

Boots, Shoes, Hats & Caps

Corn, Oats,

Wood etc. etc.

West Main, 4th Door N. of Ennis Ave

J. P. HAYNES

Livery & Sale

STABLE

Main, South Ennis Avenue,

Texas, at St Louis Mo. October, 1875. Dr. W. C. Wathen of Ennis grew the wheat.

Cyrus T. Hogan

Real Estate Agent,

Conveyancer

and

COLLECTOR.

Keeps on hand as fine a list of Farms—and good Lands—as can be found in the state. Especial and prompt attention given to

INVESTING

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Real Estate.

And will guarantee 12 per cent per annum, nett profit on the investment.

Send him your Address for Lists of Farms and lands, and **DESCRIPTION OF ELLIS CO., Texas.**

CORRESPONDENCE SOLICITED.

ENNIS, ELLIS CO. TEXAS.

If you wish to raise wheat and other cereals, settle in Ellis or adjoining Counties.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
0 014 433 389 5

C

Nat
J. S
J. I
N.
J. S
D.
J. S. Sanderson
B. F. Hawkins Clerk County Court.
N. G. Davis Justice Peace Precinct No. 1
R. P McKay " " " " 2
John L. Check, " " " " 3
V. Sevier " " " " 4
E. M. Brack " " " " 5
R. S. Bynum County Atty.
W. D. Ryburn Sheriff.
H. H. Campbell Cattle & Hide inspector
Jas. E. Smith tax Assessor.
J. G. Gibbon County Surveyor.

CITY DIRECTORY OF ENNIS.

T. B. Chalmers Mayor.
J. H. Chancellor
T. L. McCarty
J. Reisman } Aldermen.
J. M. Dixon
S. M Carlton
Joe Bullard Marshal.
Z. T. Bundy, Deputy Marshal

A BEAUTIFUL
BIRDSEYE VIEW OF ENNIS,
TEXAS.
in three tints, sketched by Professor D. D. Morse, is now being Lithographed and will be ready for mailing June 15th. For price address ALBERT L. RUSH Ennis Texas.